

**Western Australian Standard Gauge Railway
Kalgoorlie to Perth
Engineering Heritage Landmark Ceremony
26 March 2012**

Press Articles

1 Article for Engineering WA Newsletter

On March 26 a ceremony took place at the Public Transport Centre in East Perth to commemorate the award to the Western Australian Standard Gauge Railway by Engineering Heritage Australia of an Engineering Heritage National Landmark.

An interpretation panel detailing the planning, design and construction of the project was presented to the Public Transport Authority, the successors to the Western Australian Government Railways (WAGR). The State Premier at the time of the construction of the standard gauge railway in the 1960s was the Hon David Brand and the Minister for Railways was the Hon Charles Court. It was fitting that the panel was jointly unveiled by Lady Doris Brand, wife of the late Sir David Brand; and the Hon Richard Court AC, son of the late Sir Charles Court. The panel was accepted by Mr Reece Waldock, CEO Public Transport Authority and is located on the ground floor of the Public Transport Centre, East Perth

The ceremony, presided over by EHWA Chairman, Professor Mark Bush, was attended by over 60 invitees, most of whom were former employees of the WAGR and the project's consulting civil and structural engineers, Maunsell and Partners.



**Interpretation Panel unveiled by Lady Brand and Richard Court
(Photo by D Brennan)**

2 Article for EA Magazine

In a ceremony at the Public Transport Centre in East Perth on 26 March an interpretation panel entitled *ONE RAILWAY GAUGE COAST TO COAST*, was jointly unveiled by Lady Doris Brand and the Hon Richard Court AC, commemorating the award by Engineering Heritage Australia of an Engineering Heritage National Landmark to the Western Australian Standard Gauge Railway project. The panel was accepted, on behalf of the Public Transport Authority, successor to the Western Australian Government Railways, by Mr Reece Waldock, Chief Executive Officer of the Authority.

There were over sixty attendees at the ceremony, mostly former Western Australian Government railway staff and employees of Maunsell and Partners, engineering consultants for the project.

The construction of the \$160 million Western Australian section of the standard gauge railway in the 1960s set in motion a considerable stream of economic and social benefits for Western Australia. The elimination of the break of gauge at Kalgoorlie resulted in considerable reductions in interstate freight costs and journey times between Kalgoorlie and Perth. In addition the railway network in the Perth metropolitan area was re-designed to allow rail traffic to the Fremantle and Kwinana industrial areas to bypass central Perth and its inner suburbs.

At the time of negotiating a funding agreement with the Federal Government and during most of the construction period the Premier of Western Australia was the Hon (later Sir) David Brand and the State Minister for Railways was the Hon (later Sir) Charles Court. It was therefore fitting that Lady Brand, wife of Sir David, and Richard Court, also a former State Premier and son of Sir Charles, unveiled the panel.

*By Don Young
16 April 2012*



From left, Mr Reece Waldock, Lady Brand, Professor Mark Bush, Chair Engineering Heritage WA, Mr John Heathers, Chair Engineering Heritage Australia, the Hon Richard Court AC

Photo by D Brennan